

Serial No. 10/741,809

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-23 and 44-73 are now pending in this application, claims 5, 6 and 24-43 having been canceled previously, and claims 44-73 having been added previously. Claims 1, 44, 52, 60 and 67 are the independent claims.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3, 6-14, 26, and 29-37 are allowable. The claims have been previously amended so that current independent claims 1, 44, 52, 60 and 67 respectively correspond to original allowable claims 6, 7, 9, 29 and 37. Accordingly, Applicants believe the independent claims and the amended claims that depend therefrom are allowable.

Applicants note, however, that the above amendments have been made solely in order to expedite allowance of the application. Applicants continue to believe that the original claims are allowable and Applicants reserve the right to continue prosecuting the original claims in a continuing application. In this regard, the Applicants wish to point out the Examiner's Response To Arguments set forth in the Final Office Action appears to mischaracterize Applicants prior comments. As noted in the initial Amendment After Final filed May 15, 2006, the Examiner claims that the Applicants are alleging that Giles does not teach a hermetically sealed housing for an optical amplifier. Applicants are saying no such thing. Applicants readily concede that Giles shows a hermetically sealed housing. However, as set forth in detail in the previous responses, Applicants are arguing that the claimed hermetically sealed housing does not correspond to the particular pressure sealed housing of Giles.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes there are still unresolved issues, a telephone call to the undersigned would be welcomed.

Serial No. 10/741,809

Fees

The Examiner is authorized to charge the one-mo extension fee and any additional fees that may be due and owing to Deposit Account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence and any document referenced herein is being sent to the United States Patent and Trademark office via Facsimile to: 571-273-8300 on 7/17/06.

Marjorie Scariati

(Printed Name of Person Sending Correspondence)

Marjorie Scariati
(Signature)